

changing opportunities for the veterans he served. Bob organized numerous initiatives to support veterans and oversaw the creation of the Honor Deceased Veteran program. He was a true veteran's veteran.

On behalf of New York's 21st district, I am honored to recognize the extraordinary life of Bob Mitchell, and his brave and selfless service to his country and fellow veterans. It is my hope that his fearless spirit and bravery will be carried on by those who knew and loved him.

HOMETOWN HERO—RICHARD G.
STEWART, JR.

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2021

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard G. Stewart, Jr. of Irving, TX who served in the U.S. Navy. Over the weekend, I had the honor of awarding Richard the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Throughout his outstanding 24-year military service record, Richard was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Star, among many others. Richard retired from the Navy in 1994 and went on to serve his community in various more ways.

It is an honor to recognize the distinguished veterans of TX 24 and to preserve their stories for future generations of Americans through the Congressional Veteran Commendation. I thank Richard for his service and the sacrifices he made to protect our great nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF PARACHUTE
RIGGER PETTY OFFICER 2ND
CLASS REBA ALEXANDER
MONCUS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2021

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary trailblazer, sailor, World War II veteran, and dedicated civil servant, Parachute Rigger Petty Officer 2nd Class (P/R 2) Reba Alexander Moncus, who was honored at Veterans Day Program for the American Legion Post 30 on November 11, 2021, at 8 a.m.

Reba Alexander Moncus was born November 30, 1921, in Berrien County, Georgia, to the union of the late Mr. J.H. and Mrs. Lodia Alexander. As a family of sharecroppers during the Great Depression, the Alexanders often moved around, and with money being scarce, the only food they purchased was the food they could not grow on their own. Because her family could not afford to buy schoolbooks for her studies, Reba had to drop out of school in the third grade. It was not until Ed Rivers became Governor of Georgia, that the state began furnishing free schoolbooks, and Reba was able to return to her studies. She attended six different schools in a three-county area, before graduating from high school at the age of 21. After high school, she

went to Thomaston, Georgia where she worked for Thomaston Mills, and after some time there, she realized that a life of drudgery working in a cotton mill was not the life she wanted to live.

On March 10, 1943, Reba answered the call to serve her nation and enlisted in the newly formed U.S. NAVY WAVES (Women Appointed for Volunteer Emergency Services), the women's branch of the U.S. Navy, and was the first woman to be recruited from the Albany, Georgia area. Upon enlisting, she started basic training at Hunter College in New York along with 10,000 other women on July 15, 1943. After Basic she was assigned to the Recreation Department onboard Naval Air Station Anacostia, in Washington, D.C. Reba was adamant about wanting to serve her country in every capacity and wanting to contribute to the World War II efforts, and after battling with the Navy Bureau of Personnel for four months, she finally convinced them that she was capable of serving on the front lines. On January 1, 1944, Reba was assigned to Naval Air Station Lakehurst, New Jersey for training as a parachute rigger. On April 1, 1944, upon completion of her training, she was sent to Naval Air Station (NAS) Melbourne, Florida, where new Naval Aviators were taught tactics, gunnery, and general flight prior to shipment overseas. During her tenure at NAS Melbourne, she was also able to participate in the drop test flights but, as one of two female riggers, she was not allowed to test jump chutes, as they were reserved only for the male riggers. Reba spent the most fulfilling days of her life, interrupted by moments of pure horror at Melbourne, as her duties included inspecting and repacking unused military parachutes and salvaging the hardware from burned parachutes, which included smelling the horrible stench of human flesh mixed with burnt aviation gas, oil, and everything involved with an airplane crash. She was later reassigned to NAS Opa Locka in November of 1944 and was released from active duty on November 24, 1945.

Following her military service, she continued to serve her community and make an impact in the lives of others. Her contributions include serving her fellow Veterans as a member of the American Legion Post 30 in Albany, Georgia and serving on the Honor Guard Burial Detail for more than two decades. Moreover, she urged her fellow vets and first responders suffering from the effects of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder to seek help.

Douglas Adams once said that "To give real service you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity." P/R 2 Reba Alexander Moncus has demonstrated through her career and life, outstanding achievement, service, and public distinction. Our community, our state, and our nation are better because of her.

Reba accomplished much in her life, but none of it would have been possible without the Grace of God and the love and support of her family including her late husband, Albert Holton Harrell; and her children, and her grandchildren.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 residents of the Second Congressional District in honoring and commending Parachute Rigger Petty Officer 2nd Class (P/R 2) Reba Alexander Moncus for her outstanding service to her nation, community, and humankind.

FURTHER RECOGNIZING CHINESE-AMERICAN WORLD WAR II VETERANS FROM PENNSYLVANIA

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2021

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, on November 5th, I proudly recognized dozens of Chinese-American Veterans from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who served gallantly in our United States military during World War II.

Today, I rise once again to further acknowledge additional service members who committed themselves to defending our national ideals and values in the gravest hours of that war.

Ging G. Ju, Hoi Yook Wong, Ging T. Chin, Harvey C. Young, George W. Jung, Leong Q. Yee, Poy Quon Fong, Jan Lim, William Lee Sr., Mun H. Wong, Yook Been Eng, Frank Wong Leung.

In 2018, Congress passed and the President signed into law S. 1050—The Chinese-American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act, which authorized the Congressional Gold Medal to be awarded to these individuals in recognition for both their service to our Nation during a time at war and to our Nation's Chinese American community. Not only did they help in defeating our Nation's enemies, but they overcame the many challenges they and their families had due to the existence of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. As a matter of fact, 40 percent, of the Chinese who served were not even citizens of the United States at the time. It was not that they did not want to become citizens, but that they were denied that right under the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. However, due to their service and sacrifices for our Nation during WWII, Congress finally repealed this unjust law in 1943. This laid the groundwork for many of our Veterans to return home after the war and to attain the opportunities that they rightfully earned in their military service to our Nation.

I would again respectfully like our Congress today to show our appreciation and gratitude to these great Americans. We will always remember and treasure their personal sacrifices and contributions to our Nation.

COMMEMORATING THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE RESTORATION OF AZERBAIJAN'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2021

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, on November 10th the world saw the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh come to an end, and with it, the rightful restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity.

As many Azerbaijani citizens know all too well, last year's war was not an isolated incident. After a ceasefire agreement ending the First Nagorno-Karabakh War in May of 1994, in which Armenia took approximately 14 percent of Azerbaijan's internationally recognized